



# CLINICAL CGT IMMUNE MONITORING AND IMMUNOBIOLOGY WORKSHOP

*Tuesday, May 5, 2026 • ISCT 2026 Dublin, Ireland*

## COURSE OVERVIEW

This one-day, expert-led, interactive, case-studies-based workshop is designed for clinicians, scientists, process development teams, laboratory leaders, and medical trainees committed to advancing CGT patient care. Choose the track that aligns with your role:


### Track 1 - Technical & Translational


Built for process development and translational scientists. Explore fit-for-purpose assay selection, biomarker integration, workflow optimization, and practical strategies to implement standardized immune monitoring across research and clinical settings.


### Track 2 - Clinical Application

Designed for clinicians and clinical researchers. Learn novel immune monitoring strategies, implement robust biomarkers to support patient outcome prediction and follow-up, and translate immune data into actionable clinical decision-making.

## DELIVERY METHOD

 In-person interactive course

 1-day training  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026

 Hosted in the ISCT 2026 Annual Meeting at:  
Spencer Dock, N Wall Quay,  
North Wall, Dublin 1, D01 T1W6, Ireland

## KEY LEARNING TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Explain the importance of immune monitoring in optimizing clinical outcomes and supporting treatment decisions
- Identify and interpret biomarkers to track immune responses and predict patient outcomes
- Evaluate strategies to standardize immune monitoring workflows for improved consistency and data comparability across clinical sites
- Apply translational immunotechnology and best practices for implementing immune monitoring in research and process development
- Select clinically relevant immune monitoring parameters for CAR-T and MSC therapies
- Interpret multi-center data, understand sources of variability, and implement approaches for consistent results



*ISCT is an ASCP Continuing Medical Laboratory Education (CMLE)-approved provider.  
This course consists of 6 CMLE credits.*



*Scan this QR code to learn more and register*

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08:30–09:00	Check-In, Registration and Coffee
09:00 – 09:10	Welcome and Introduction
09:10 - 09:40	<p><b>Keynote Session</b></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Rosa Bacchetta, MD</b> Professor of Pediatrics Stanford Maternal &amp; Child Health Research Institute California, USA</p>
09:40 - 10:40	<p><b>Plenary Session</b></p> <p><b>Lymphodepletion and Immune Reconstitution after Immune-Effector Cells/CAR-T Therapy</b></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Jan Joseph Melenhorst, PhD</b> Director, Cell Therapy and Immuno-Engineering Program (CTIP), Cleveland Clinic Research, Ohio, USA</p> <p><b>The Impact of Lymphodepletion on Antigen Presentation</b></p> <p>Speakers: <b>Shira Sagie, MD, PhD, MPH</b> Oncology Department, Jusidman Cancer Center, Sheba Medical Center, Israel Postdoctoral fellow, Weizmann institute, Israel</p>
10:40 - 11:00	Interactive Panel Discussion
11:00 - 11:15	BREAK

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## Track 1: Technical Focused

### How to Build and Run an Effective Immune Monitoring Program

Chair: **Elani Wiest, PhD**

Staff Scientist - Process Development, Center for Regenerative Biotherapeutics  
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville  
Florida, USA

## Track 2: Clinical Focused

### Immune Effector Cells (IEC) and CAR-T Cell Therapies: Mechanisms, Monitoring and Clinical Impact

Chairs: **Jaap Boelens, MD, PhD**

Chief Pediatric-Oncologist, Transplantation and Cellular Therapies Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, USA, and

**Stefan Nierkens, PhD**

Associate Professor, Tumor Immunology, Medical Immunologist  
UMC Utrecht and Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology  
Utrecht, the Netherlands

#### 11:15 - Novel Technical Development 11:35 Immune System Profiling

Speaker: **Carolyn Shasha, PhD**

Data Scientist  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
Seattle, USA

#### 11:15 - Determinants of CAR-T Efficacy: Immune 11:35 Effector Cell Function, Persistence, and the Tumor Immune Milieu

Speaker: **Juidith Wienke, PhD**

Research Group Leader, Immunotherapy for Solid Tumors,  
Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology,  
Utrecht, the Netherlands

#### 11:35 - Implementing an Immune 11:55 Monitoring Program: From Sample Collection to Batching

Speaker: **Allan Dietz, PhD**

Professor of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology  
Mayo Clinic Rochester  
Minnesota, USA

#### 11:35 - Immune Reconstitution After CAR T-Cell 11:55 Therapy in Autoimmune Diseases and Beyond

Speaker: **Simon Völkl, PD, MHBA**

Department of Medicine 5 - Hematology & Internal  
Oncology, University Hospital Erlangen, Germany

#### 11:55 - Interpreting Immune Monitoring 12:15 Data: Linking Biomarkers to Clinical Response

Speaker: **Enrico Velardi, PhD**

Principal Investigator, Immune Regeneration and  
Experimental Hematology Laboratory Bambino  
Gesù Children's Hospital.  
Italy

#### 11:55 - Immune Effector Cell Therapies Beyond 12:15 B- Cell Cancers; Lessons from AML CAR-T Trials

Speaker: **Kevin Curran, MD**

Associate Attending Pediatrician  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, USA

12:15-12:35 Interactive Panel Discussion

12:35-14:00 LUNCH

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## Advanced Technologies in Immune Monitoring

Chairs: **Elani Wiest, PhD**

Staff Scientist - Process Development, Center for Regenerative

Biotherapeutics Mayo Clinic Jacksonville, Florida, USA, and

**Stefan Nierkens, PhD**

Associate Professor, Tumor Immunology, Medical Immunologist

UMC Utrecht and Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric

Oncology Utrecht, the Netherlands

## Immune Reconstitution After Transplant: Do We Really Know What's Happening?

Chair: **Jaap Boelens, MD, PhD**

Chief Pediatric-Oncologist, Transplantation and Cellular Therapies

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

New York, USA

### 14:00 - Multi-Omics & Proteomics 14:20 Immune Monitoring in Solid Tumors

Speaker: **Stefan Nierkens, PhD** Associate Professor, Tumor Immunology, Medical Immunologist UMC Utrecht and Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology Utrecht, the Netherlands

### 14:00 - Do We Really Understand Post-Transplant Immune Recovery? The 14:20 Role of Lymphoid Tissue Regeneration

Speaker: **Leena Babiker, PhD Candidate** Cancer Immunology & Immunotherapy, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania, USA

### 14:20 - Metabolic Conditioning of CAR-T 14:40 Cells: From Ex Vivo Optimization to In Vivo Persistence

Speaker: **Roddy O'Connor, BSc, MS, PhD** Research Assistant Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Pennsylvania, USA

### 14:20 - Immune and GvHD- Tolerance 14:40 (Long Term)

Speaker: **Enrico Velardi, PhD** Principal Investigator, Immune Regeneration and Experimental Hematology Laboratory Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital Italy

### 14:40 - Single-Cell Functional Profiling 15:00 Using High-Throughput Platforms

Speaker: **Anthony Zamora, PhD** Associate Professor Department of Internal Medicine Division of Malignant Hematology/Cellular Therapy and Transplantation University of California, Davis, USA

### 14:40 - The Reconstituted Immune System 15:00 as a Driver of Leukemia Control

Speaker: **Alexandre Troullioud Lucas, MD, PhD** Assistant Attending Physician Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center New York, USA

15:00 - 15:15

BREAK

## Closing Remarks

15:15 - 15:45

## The Future of Spectral Flow Cytometry in Immunomonitoring in cell therapies

Speakers: **Juan Flores-Montero MD, PhD**

Postdoctoral Researcher, Cancer Research Center. Department of Hematology, University Hospital of Salamanca, Spain

15:45 - 16:00

Wrap Up

17:00 - 18:00

Networking Reception

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## Planning Committee



**Jaap Boelens, MD, PhD**

ISCT Regional Vice-President, North America  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center  
New York, USA



**Stefan Nierkens, PhD**

Associate Professor, Tumor Immunology, Medical  
Immunologist UMC Utrecht and Princess Máxima  
Center for Pediatric Oncology  
Utrecht, the Netherlands



**Elani Wiest, PhD**

ESP Leadership Development Program  
Mayo Clinic Jacksonville  
Florida, USA